

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2009

Rec&Ed Offices

1530 Eisenhower Place

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Members Present: Sheila Calhoun, Paula Greeno, Joanne Kimata, Colleen Greene, Tom George, Tim Berla

Ex-Officio Members Present: Glenn Nelson, Sara Aeschbach, Larry Dishman, Jeff Straw

Call to Order: Chairperson Paula Greeno called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm

Approval of Minutes: Tim Berla moved to accept the minutes of the October 6, 2009 meeting. Tom George seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Public Commentary: None

Old Business

A. Mack Pool Update – Sara Aeschbach reported the sub-committees are progressing in their goal to balance the pool budget. Grant money is available to replace the lighting, which could have an annual savings of \$3K. There will be a public meeting on November 12 at Ann Arbor Open to obtain more public input regarding the budget issues and the potential closing of the pool. A similar public meeting was held regarding the Senior Center, which was very productive. Unless something changes dramatically, it does not look like a balanced budget can be presented to City Council at this time. Tim Berla would hope that the sub-committees are discussing keeping the current programs running for patrons. Jeff Straw noted the task force is aware of these concerns and is actively looking into other avenues, even if it means moving the programs to other pool locations. Recommendations will be presented to City Council in February with a decision made by Council in May. Glenn Nelson would like reassurance that the deadline is user-friendly for patrons to make any necessary adjustments to their programs.

B. RAC Membership – Sara Aeschbach reported that the nomination committee recommended the following: reappointment of Betty Wier and the new appointment of Joseph Erhardt and Rick Dekeon for the City appointments. School Board recommendations are: student Arjun Kalra from Pioneer High School, student Annie-Nora Beveridge from Huron High School, and Tim Berla. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Mayor's office as well as the School Board. The AAPS School Board is scheduled to meet on November 18. Letters will be sent to the potential candidates informing them of their appointments. Tim Berla moved to accept the recommended nominations. Tom George seconded the motion. The recommended nominations were approved unanimously.

New Business

A. 2008-09 Financials – Sara Aeschbach reported that the school district audit is not complete at this time. The bottom line figure for Rec&Ed currently shows a deficit of \$330,790.77 for fiscal year-end 2008-09. The Recreation deficit is \$127,500.30 without Child Care, and does not seem as drastic when Rec&Ed's rent for the current leased office space is taken into account. That expense will be eliminated with the department move to Pioneer High School in January. Administrative costs

have been reduced. Rec&Ed will be partnering with WISD to work on programming for the adapted programs as well as the University of Michigan athletic department to provide athletics for disabled participants. There is currently an adapted soccer program in place and in the future it is hopeful there will be other sports as well. The deficit in childcare is being addressed in various ways such as considering privatizing the childcare workers. One of the largest expenses to the childcare budget is the employee medical benefit. Glenn Nelson noted there was a marked increase in the deficit from 2007-08 to 2008-09. Sara felt this increase was due in large part to the decrease in SACC enrollments; however enrollment for 2009-10 is currently stronger than it was one year previous.

B. City/School Field Agreement Status – Sara Aeschbach reported that the agreement expires in December. Meetings have been held with the City and are progressing nicely. Rec&Ed is exploring hiring staff directly to work on field maintenance, which could bring the costs down to all participants. It will help Rec&Ed department finances and will give more control over the work. It is optimistic that an agreement will be reached with the City in December and brought to RAC in January.

Briefing Agenda

A. Items from RAC

1. Reports from PAC – Tim Berla reported that PAC is beginning to work on the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) plan. An email survey will be sent to citizens whereas the PROS plan survey 5 years ago was done via phone. Tim Berla would like to see a member from RAC serve on the committee. The plan needs to be complete by December 2010. The disc golf course at Mary Beth Doyle Park is mostly complete. Ultimate Frisbee has had an issue with games being cancelled for the week-end as early as Friday afternoon at the new fields.

B. Items from Parks and Recreation – Jeff Straw reported there have been public meetings for the Senior Center Task Force with good turnouts. West Park will be going through a renovation the summer of 2010 involving storm water management, so fields will be unavailable for summer season.

C. Items from Community Education and Recreation – Sara Aeschbach reported Rec&Ed is making significant investment in school fields this fall. AM Services will be fertilizing and aerating fields.

Transmittals – None

Adjournment: Tim Berla moved to adjourn the meeting and Tom George seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Chairperson Paula Greeno adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Drago, Recording Secretary to RAC